

CLAIMS

I/we claim:

1. A discharge bulb, comprising:
 - an arc tube fixedly positioned and forwardly elongating from an insulating base positioned behind said arc tube;
 - a ceramic, straight, and cylindrical light emitting tube positioned in said arc tube, said light emitting tube having sealed end portions to form an enclosed space therein; and
 - electrodes opposingly disposed in said light emitting tube where said enclosed space is filled with a light emitting substance and a starting rare gas; and wherein
 - a first light blocking portion is disposed on a first portion of said arc tube that corresponds to at least a rear one of the sealed end portions of said light emitting tube, said light blocking portion extending over at least a predetermined range from an upper side in a circumferential direction to both lateral sides of said light emitting tube.
2. The discharge bulb according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - a light blocking portion positioned on a second portion that corresponds to a front one of the sealed end portions of said light emitting tube, and said light blocking portion extends over at least a predetermined range, from a lower side in the circumferential direction to both of said lateral sides of said light emitting tube.
3. The discharge bulb of claim 2, wherein said second light blocking portion is formed in a predetermined width from the second position corresponding to said sealed portion of said light emitting tube, up to a maximum width substantially at a tip end of corresponding one of said electrodes.
4. The discharge bulb of claim 1, wherein said first light blocking portion is formed in a predetermined width from the first position corresponding to said sealed portion of

said light emitting tube, up to a maximum width substantially at a tip end of corresponding one of said electrodes.

5. The discharge bulb of claim 1, wherein said light blocking portion on a rear end side of at least one of said arc tube and said glass shroud extends in the circumferential direction to positions that horizontally coincide in level with an lowermost position of said rear end sealed portion of said light emitting tube.

6. The discharge bulb of claim 1, wherein said light blocking portion on a front end side of at least one of said arc tube and said glass shroud extends in the circumferential direction to positions that horizontally coincide in level with a upperrmost position of said front end sealed portion of said light emitting tube.

7. The discharge bulb of claim 1, wherein said light blocking portion is disposed in the circumferential direction over a whole circumference of at least one of said arc tube and said glass shroud.

8. A discharge bulb, comprising:

an arc tube is fixedly positioned so as to elongate from an insulating base positioned behind said arc tube;

a ceramic, straight, and cylindrical light emitting tube positioned in said arc tube and having sealed end portions to form an enclosed space therein; and

electrodes opposingly disposed in said light emitting tube, wherein said enclosed space is filled with a light emitting substance and a starting rare gas; and

an ultraviolet-ray blocking glass shroud surrounding said light emitting tube and positioned around said arc tube, wherein, in at least one of said arc tube and said glass shroud, a light blocking portion is positioned corresponding to at least a rear end sealed portion among front and rear end

sealed portions of said light emitting tube, said light blocking portion extending over at least a range from an upper side in a circumferential direction to both lateral sides.

9. The discharge bulb according to claim 3, further comprising:

a light blocking portion positioned corresponding to said front end sealed portion of said light emitting tube, in at least one of said arc tube and said glass shroud, wherein said light blocking portion extends over at least a predetermined range from a lower side in the circumferential direction to both of said lateral sides.

10. The discharge bulb of claim 9, wherein said second light blocking portion is formed in a predetermined width from the second position corresponding to said sealed portion of said light emitting tube, up to a maximum width substantially at a tip end of corresponding one of said electrodes.

11. The discharge bulb of claim 8, wherein said first light blocking portion is formed in a predetermined width from the first position corresponding to said sealed portion of said light emitting tube, up to a maximum width substantially at a tip end of corresponding one of said electrodes.

12. The discharge bulb of claim 8, wherein said light blocking portion on a rear end side of at least one of said arc tube and said glass shroud extends in the circumferential direction to positions that horizontally coincide in level with an lowermost position of said rear end sealed portion of said light emitting tube.

13. The discharge bulb of claim 8, wherein said light blocking portion on a front end side of at least one of said arc tube and said glass shroud extends in the circumferential direction to positions that horizontally coincide in level

with a uppermost position of said front end sealed portion of said light emitting tube.

14. The discharge bulb of claim 8, wherein said light blocking portion is disposed in the circumferential direction over a whole circumference of at least one of said arc tube and said glass shroud.

15. A discharge bulb, comprising:

an arc tube fixedly positioned and forwardly elongating from an insulating base positioned behind said arc tube;

a ceramic, straight, and cylindrical light emitting tube positioned in said arc tube and having sealed end portions to form an enclosed space therein;

electrodes opposingly disposed in said light emitting tube, where said enclosed space is filled with a light emitting substance and a starting rare gas; and

means for positioning a hot zone of a luminous distribution at a cutoff line of said luminous distribution, and substantially reducing a glare light output.

16. The discharge bulb of claim 15, said means for positioning and substantially reducing comprising:

a first light blocking portion disposed on a first portion of said arc tube that corresponds to at least a rear one of the sealed end portions of said light emitting tube, wherein said light blocking portion extends over at least a predetermined range from an upper side in a circumferential direction to both lateral sides of said light emitting tube.

17. The discharge bulb according to claim 16, said means for positioning and substantially reducing further comprising:

a light blocking portion positioned corresponding to said front end sealed portion of said light emitting tube, in at least one of said arc tube and said glass shroud, wherein said light blocking portion extends over at least a predetermined

range from a lower side in the circumferential direction to both of said lateral sides.

18. The discharge bulb of claim 16, wherein said second light blocking portion is formed in a predetermined width from the second position corresponding to said sealed portion of said light emitting tube, up to a maximum width substantially at a tip end of corresponding one of said electrodes, and wherein said first light blocking portion is formed in a predetermined width from the first position corresponding to said sealed portion of said light emitting tube, up to a maximum width substantially at a tip end of corresponding one of said electrodes.

19. The discharge bulb of claim 16, wherein said light blocking portion on a rear end side of at least one of said arc tube and said glass shroud extends in the circumferential direction to positions that horizontally coincide in level with an lowermost position of said rear end sealed portion of said light emitting tube,
said light blocking portion on a front end side of at least one of said arc tube and said glass shroud extends in the circumferential direction to positions that horizontally coincide in level with a uppermost position of said front end sealed portion of said light emitting tube, and

said light blocking portion is disposed in the circumferential direction over a whole circumference of at least one of said arc tube and said glass shroud.

20. The discharge bulb of claim 16, further comprising:
an ultraviolet-ray blocking glass shroud surrounding said light emitting tube and positioned around said arc tube, wherein, in at least one of said arc tube and said glass shroud.